

REFERENCE TITLE: Dr. Augusto Ortiz; death resolution

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2008

## **SCR 1035**

Introduced by  
Senator Aguirre; Representatives Pancrazi, Rios P: Senators Arzberger,  
Burton Cahill, Garcia, McCune Davis; Representatives Alvarez, Bradley,  
Gallardo, Lopes, Lujan, McGuire, Schapira

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
ON THE DEATH OF DR. AUGUSTO "GUS" ORTIZ.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1       Dr. Augusto "Gus" Ortiz, champion of bringing healthcare to the poor  
2 for more than fifty years, died in Tucson on December 16, 2006 at the age of  
3 ninety.

4       Born in 1917 in Puerto Rico, Gus Ortiz came to the United States in  
5 1941 to attend medical school at the University of Illinois at Chicago.  
6 There, he met his future wife, Martha, and they both came to Arizona in 1953  
7 when Gus was stationed at Luke Air Force Base.

8       In 1955, Dr. Ortiz opened a Phoenix medical clinic to assist farm  
9 workers and other poor Arizonans. It was there that he and a young César  
10 Chávez met and embarked on a lifelong friendship during which both fought to  
11 better the lives of migrants and their families by advancing their rights and  
12 providing better medical services. Dr. Ortiz helped achieve a ban in Arizona  
13 against the use of the short-handled hoe that caused back problems for the  
14 farm workers, and he also advocated for a pesticide ban.

15      In 1972, Dr. Ortiz began working for the University of Arizona College  
16 of Medicine Rural Health Office, and in 1976, he started the mobile health  
17 clinic that primarily aids poor and underserved people in the state's rural  
18 communities. He and Martha drove the clinic to help people in such remote  
19 places as Picture Rocks, which eventually built its own clinic and named it  
20 the Ortiz Community Health Center in his honor. Dr. Ortiz and Martha were  
21 awarded the Greater Tucson Leadership Award in 2002 for their outstanding  
22 efforts.

23      In recognition of his tremendous contributions to providing medical  
24 care to the poor, Dr. Ortiz was personally presented with the United States  
25 Surgeon General's Medallion by Surgeon General Richard Carmona.

26      Dr. Gus Ortiz will be greatly missed by his family, friends and peers,  
27 as well as the countless individuals he has helped over the years.  
28 Therefore

29 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of  
30 Representatives concurring:

31      That the Members of the Legislature express sincere regret at the  
32 passing of Dr. Augusto "Gus" Ortiz and extend their deepest sympathies to his  
33 wife, Martha, daughters, Judith and Betty Jane, sons, Carl and Quintin, six  
34 grandchildren and other surviving family members.